(iii) Setting up of separate Handloom Development Corporations in States with concentration of more than 1 lakh looms;

(iv) Creation of Thrift Funds Scheme with contribution from the wages of the weavers and from the employers;

(v) Shift in emphasis by the Corporations from production to marketing and availability of working capital to these Corporations at a concessional rate of interest;

(vi) Government and Public Sector enterprises should purchase their entire requirement of textiles to the extent which these can be met from the Handloom sector;

(vii) Reservation in handloom sector to be strictly enforced;

(viii) Banks to make provision for grant of loans for construction of houses for weavers;

(ix) Term loans be given for the purchase of new looms/modernisation of existing looms;

(b) The current position regarding these recommendations are as follows :

(i) The National Handloom Development Corporation was set up by the Government;

(ii) At the National level a Standing Committee to review the flow of credit to the handloom sector has been functioning which includes representatives of Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development. Similarly in 16 States, State level coordination Commitees have also been formed;

(iii) Separate Handloom Development Corporations are now functioning in most States;

(iv) A Thrift Fund Scheme is being implemented by the Central and State Governments.

(v) Handloom Development Corporation are actively involved the marketing of handloom products;

(vi) Central and many State Governments have issued directions for preferential purchases of handloom products;

(vii) The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 is sub judice in the Supreme Court. A bill has been introduced in the current session of Parliament to Place the Handloom Reservation Act in the IX Schedule of the Constitution.

(viii) Workshed-cum-Housing scheme is being implemented by the Government of India;

(ix) Government is also implementing a scheme on modernisation/purchase of looms for which NABARD refinance is available.

United Bank of India officers organisation

3550. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a new Officers' organisation named as United Bank of India Officers Organisation has been formed at Calcutta;

(b) whether preferential posting of office bearers of the organisation have been made; and

(c) whether an accommodation for the organisation at Head Office has been given. if not reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Bank of India Management advised that the President and the General Secretary of the organisation have been transferred strictly, in terms of the seniority and bank's norms applicable to its officers.

(c) The bank has informed that it has stopped the practice of providing accommodation to the trade unions/associations at the Head Office building since 1982.